

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus which manages and organizes expense information, comprising:

a scanner to scan various types of receipts, each said receipt containing expense information printed thereon, said scanner scanning each said receipt to obtain scanned information for each receipt; and

a computer in communication with the scanner, said computer executing a software which receives said scanned information for each receipt and which processes the scanned information including numerical data in the receipt to obtain said expense information from said scanned information,

wherein said expense information for each receipt is categorized into one or more predetermined categories to obtain categorized information for each receipt,

wherein said categorized information for each receipt is combined with categorized information for other said receipts to produce and display report information for one or more of said predetermined categories;

wherein the apparatus is configured to process receipts of no predefined format that include grocery receipts, purchase receipts, credit card receipts or bank statements having different widths and thicknesses.

2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the scanner is connected to said computer through a USB port or a pass through parallel port, and wherein the software is stored in the computer.

3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein as the receipts are being scanned, the scanned information from the scanned receipts is automatically received by the computer and the expense information for each receipt is captured from the scanned information for each receipt, and categorized into one or more of said predetermined categories.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further including a display device in communication with said computer, wherein the report information is displayed on said display device in a tabular form, a pie-chart form, or as a text file.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein formats of the report information displayed in tabular form include income-expense reports, expenses versus planned budget, cash flow, or a list of all expenses grouped under said one or more predetermined categories.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the apparatus allows a user to edit the expense information obtained from each of the scanned receipts.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the apparatus is configured to save the expense information processed from the scanned receipts in Quicken Interchange Format, thereby allowing the expense information obtained from the scanned information to be imported by a financial management program.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein each scanned receipt is organized as an individual transaction so that the expense information obtained from the scanned information for each scanned receipt is able to be individually viewed and edited.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein multiple items in the receipt are used to create a split transaction having the categorized information categorized into customizable categories.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the software allows for record keeping, budgeting and for balancing a budget by

displaying tabular data to enable comparison with pre-customized budgets or limits in each said one or more predetermined category.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for managing financial information, comprising:

a scanner for scanning various types of receipts of no predefined format, each said receipt containing expense information printed thereon;

a computer in communication with said scanner, said computer receiving a scan of each said receipt, and processing said scan by collecting the expense information from the scan; and

a display device in communication with said computer, wherein said computer organizes said expense information collected from each said scan by categorizing the expense information into one or more predetermined expense categories to obtain report information,

wherein said report information for at least one of said predetermined categories is displayed on said display device.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said scanner is a portable scanner configured to automatically feed the receipt through said scanner while the receipt is being scanned, said receipts of no predefined

format including grocery receipts, purchase receipts, credit card receipts or bank statements having different widths and thicknesses.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the apparatus allows a user to edit the expense information collected from the scans of each of said receipts.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the apparatus is configured to save the expense information collected from the scans of said receipts in Quicken Interchange Format, thereby enabling the expense information collected from the scans to be imported by a financial management program.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein each scan of said receipts is organized as an individual transaction so that the expense information obtained from each scanned receipt is able be individually viewed and edited.

18.-21. (Canceled)